

N36-136495 M/TH
Amendment dated 04/15/2004

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Reply to office action mailed 12/17/2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

On the other hand, it is known that the transmittance ratio of the s-polarized light component to the p-polarized light component varies when light is made incident obliquely on a transparent flat plate such as a glass plate. A polarizing filter using this characteristic is ~~rather~~ more suitable for light compensation than the polarization beam splitter.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is generally well known ~~well~~ that the transmitting or reflecting characteristic of a multilayer film structure constituted by an alternate laminate of high-refractive-index layers and low-refractive-index layers depends on polarized light. Generally, at least ten layers are required for perfectly transmitting or reflecting either of the s-polarized light component and p-polarized light component of incident light. When the degree of polarization is allowed to be relatively low as described above in the object of the present invention, such a multilayer film structure can be realized by a number of layers not larger than 9. In practical use, the stability of optical characteristic increases as the number of layers decreases, because there are more or less variations in the angle of incidence of light, variations in the refractive index of each film material, variations in the film thickness of each layer, and so on. Also taking economy or the like into account, a smaller number of layers are preferred. In the present invention, therefore, the target number of layers is set to be smaller than 10.